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The Military Medical Academy in Leningrad (Voyennaya Meditsinskaya Akademiya imeni Kirov) was in 1942 considered by the Soviets to be the highest medical institution in the country, not only from the standpoint of its relative academic standing in the field of medical training, but also from a standpoint of tradition and prestige. It is the oldest medical school, having been established some 156 years ago, and in 1942 was the only military medical academy in the USSR. The latter statement must be qualified for in 1939-40 because of the enlarged Soviet Army and shortage of physicians qualified in the field of military medicine, a branch of this academy was established in Samara (Kuibyshev).

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It should also be pointed out that the naval military academy in Leningrad (the air force medical academy) and the departments of military medicine (Voyenniye Kafedri) at the various universities throughout the USSR are under the immediate direction of the Military Medical Academy imeni Kirov. In fact, they are considered to be extensions of this academy. Therefore, the top Soviet military medical staff is located at the Academy. No question exists as to the relative academic standing of the Academy in medical training as the students there receive not only the medical training given at other schools, but in addition are given intense additional training in all aspects of military medicine under the tutelage of the best Soviet medical minds.

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[redacted] primarily a training institution. The only reason, a great deal of important medical research is carried on there is because of the outstanding calibre of its faculty. [redacted] the research conducted at the Academy was completely divorced from its prime purpose -- that of training well qualified medical officers for the Soviet Army. Research was only a supplementary function of individual professors and staff members, according to their specialty, interests and the needs of their country.

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The highest type of varied military medical research, with unlimited funds available to carry on the work. [redacted]

[redacted] specific types of research were being carried on at the Academy in 1942. [redacted]

[redacted] 90 percent of all students admitted to the Academy were either Communist Party members or members of the Komsomol. The students were informed of the broad main divisions of research that was being conducted at the Academy, without being given any of the specifics. These broad divisions of research at the Academy in 1942 were:

a. Bacteriological Warfare

b. Biological Warfare

[redacted] one high priority research project that was being conducted in this division as a result of a report from Siberia that the bite of a certain local species of forest tick (klesch) was found to rapidly cause encephalitis. This particular kind of encephalitis was named "vesene-letniy ensefalit" (spring-summer encephalitis) because the tick's bite results in the malady only during these two seasons of the year. As soon as word of this was received at the Academy, Evgenij Pavlovsky, the famed Soviet parasitologist, and a large staff of biologists immediately departed on an expedition to this remote section of Siberia to study this tick. The expedition returned some months later and expressed great enthusiasm over its findings and the possible application of this discovery to biological warfare. Reports such as the one from Siberia were numerous and came directly to the Academy.

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c. Poisonous Matters (Otravlyaiushchiye Veshestva-OV)

In 1942, because of Soviet fears [redacted] gas warfare, the emphasis within this division of research was on poisonous gases.

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d. Infectious Diseases

Research in preventative medicine against diseases most likely to infect military personnel, including the development of new serums, drugs, etc.

e. Military Medical Tactics (Voyenna Sanitarnaya Taktika)

The assignment of this research group was to develop military maneuvers or tactics, and special equipment to aid the medical officers in quickly and safely retrieving wounded personnel from the firing lines. One theory and supporting piece of equip-

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ment that was developed at the Academy during World War II was the Voyenno sanitarno tanka. These specially equipped tanks would move between the enemy's line of fire and the Soviet wounded personnel, forming a protective shield, pick up the wounded and return them to medical facilities behind the Soviet lines. This proved to be a very successful tactic and was a major contributor to good morale in the infantry.

f. Field Surgery (Voyenno Polevaya Khirurgiya)

Development of surgical techniques and special surgical instruments to care for seriously wounded personnel.

g. Military Hygiene (Voyennaya Gigiyena)

The Academy is subordinated to the Soviet A.

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In 1942 300 new students were enrolled at the Academy in Leningrad each year, the school year commencing in September. As the medical training consisted of five years of study, that would make the maximum enrollment at the Academy 1,500 students. out of each class of 300 students, 250 to 270 graduated, the balance having dropped out for reasons of health or unsatisfactory performance. Upon completion of the five years of medical study, the students were required to fulfill an additional year of residence at the Academy where they were expected to engage in clinical work and such internec duties as are generally required.

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Because of the size of the Academy all of the research projects and other work performed there

in 1942 there were from 30 to 50 professors, 100 to 150 docents, and approximately 500 laboratory technicians and administrative personnel.

The Academy is a small town in itself, being about five city blocks long and three blocks wide -- with 3-4 story buildings constructed one against the other.

the Academy was a maze of buildings containing classrooms, laboratories, clinics, administrative offices, etc. The main street of the Academy was called the Klinicheskaya Ulitsa.

the Academy is subordinated to the Soviet Army, a strict system of movement control into and within the

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grounds of the Academy existed for both students and visitors. Passes had to be obtained by visitors from the Academy staff headquarters (shtab) before they were permitted to enter the grounds. This pass allowed the visitor to enter a specific building only. The students also had to have passes to enter buildings, or sections of a building, where they did not have a class. The passes were checked at the entrances to all buildings by a military guard who noted on the pass the time of entry into the building and the time of departure. Outsiders who wished to visit a friend or relative at the Academy were only permitted to do so at the staff headquarters building or at one of the student dormitories.

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if there was a building, section of a building, or an area to which students were not given access, the work conducted in it was of such a nature that it was not generally known and therefore no one would have a reason to request a pass to visit it.

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